

CMA REF

N6260

.C58

1944

c. 2



THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Ingalls Library

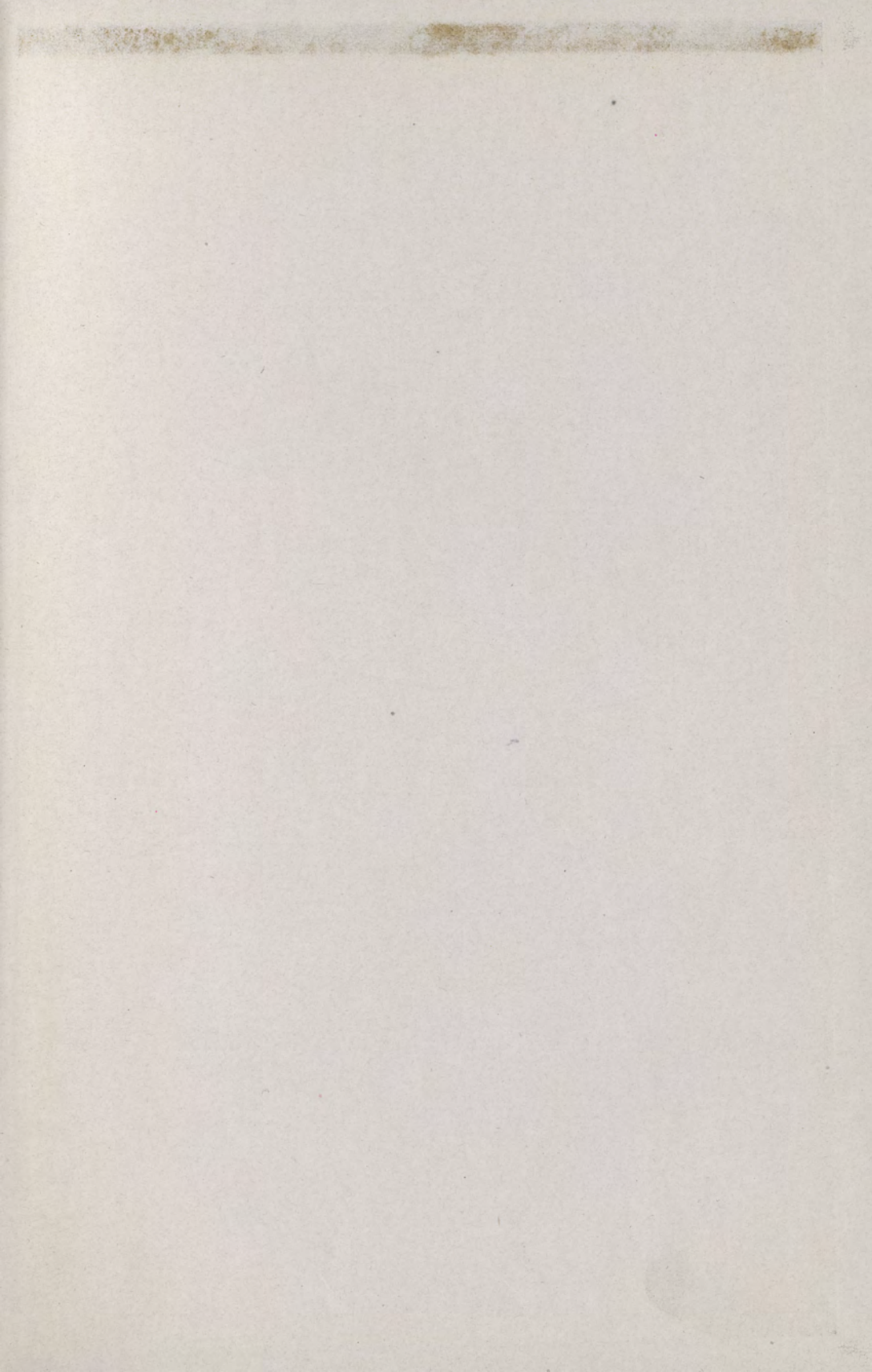
ISLAMIC ART



SELECTED EXAMPLES FROM THE
LOAN EXHIBITION OF ISLAMIC ART AT
THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART



Silvia Wunderlich 1125
Bulletin Department





ISLAMIC ART

SELECTED EXAMPLES FROM THE
LOAN EXHIBITION OF ISLAMIC ART AT
THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

1944

← Youth Sleeping under a Willow Tree

Persian, late XVI century

Lent by Mrs. Kirkor Minassian

Purchased by the Museum

The J. H. Wade Fund

PRINTED BY THE ARTCRAFT PRINTING COMPANY
CLEVELAND

COPYRIGHT, 1944
THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

10/14/67

[[FOREWORD]]

The exhibition of Islamic Art held at The Cleveland Museum of Art from November 3, 1944 through February 4, 1945 is one of the most outstanding exhibitions of its kind ever held. The number of pieces included in the exhibition, 490 in all, the paper shortage, and other difficulties have made it impossible to issue a catalogue. However, as a catalogue at best could have included only a limited number of illustrations, and as illustrations are always the most important material for both specialist and layman, the Museum is issuing this picture-book instead, which presents many of the important items exhibited. A few of the pieces are known by reproduction; but where possible, unpublished material has been chosen, so that the book should be of real value as a basic source of Islamic material.

Transfer

The exhibition has particularly stressed miniatures and pottery; but there are examples of metal work, enameled glass, calligraphy, and textiles as well. No rugs or monumental pieces have been included. Textiles have only a minor representation because they were so fully shown in that great exhibition, "2000 Years of Silk Weaving," organized by, and shown last year in, The Cleveland Museum of Art, The Los Angeles Museum of History, Science and Art, and The Detroit Institute of Arts.

The Museum is exceedingly grateful to the 17 museums, 10 collectors, and 12 dealers who have made the Exhibition of Islamic Art possible by their loans. Acknowledgment to those who have given permission to reproduce their objects is given beneath the illustrations. The pieces listed as belonging to The Cleveland Museum of Art were purchased from the exhibition.

Generous gifts from Hanna Fund and from Mrs. Brooks Emeny supplemented the Publication Fund of the Museum and made this book possible.

WILLIAM M. MILLIKEN

[082533]

ISLAMIC ART

ART means skill in production and has only recently come to mean the objects of skillful production. In this sense Islamic art may be defined as the artistic output of Islamic people. Islamic people are those who follow the doctrine laid down by the Prophet Muhammad early in the seventh century and are called Muhammadans or Moslems.

The objects in the exhibition give an arbitrary cross-sectional view of the artistic productions of Indian, Near Eastern, and Egyptian Muhammadans; and the examples chosen for illustration in this booklet represent most, though not all, of the outstanding categories in the different periods.

Islamic art is not subject to immediate comprehension; for as one assimilates the principles on which it is based, its apparent prettiness and superficiality give way to a mystical, symbolical interpretation, similar to that underlying every great art. Most important of these principles is that found in the *Sayings of the Prophet*, wherein it is stated that anyone making "a graven image" will be required on the Day of Judgment to breathe life into it. Failing, he will be condemned permanently to hell-fire. This prohibition was taken sufficiently literally to prevent the production of large-scale statues and paintings of divine and human beings, such as are found, for example, in Buddhism and Christianity. Thus there are few relief sculptures, and painting is confined to book-illustration. These paintings, moreover, are not at all realistic, but are, rather, real, in that they express metaphysical truths. They are not embodiments of material facts, but expressions of intellectual ideas, just as are the poems of the Persian and Arabian mystics. Only in the Mughal paintings of India does individual portraiture come to the fore, but even here the colors are flat, there are no cast shadows, and three-dimensional existence is indicated by expert drawing without the help of shading.

Underlying everything Islamic is the belief that nothing is permanent, save only Allah, and it is for this reason that pottery is fragile and paintings are small and unpretentious.

This booklet would hardly have been possible without the invaluable assistance of Dr. Richard Ettinghausen of the Freer Gallery of Art.

HOWARD HOLLIS

الذي يقال له طوقلن الا انه اصغر منه وفي وسطه شئ نائي من
الورق شبيه بالصليب من ظهر الاسنان واذا فرك الورق فاجت
منه رائحة الورد وطعمه شبيه بطعم الحمص المصري الطري ولورد

ق

صون
طلس

هذا النبات قوه مبردة واذا دق دنانعا وخط بالخبز
وضمده الاورام السلعية في ابتد كونها جلها
ذكر الجند قوقى المصري

وَهَذِهِ صُورَةُ ذَلِكَ وَاضِحَةٌ



فَمِنْ أَلْسِنَاتِهِ فِي كَيْفِيَّةٍ عَمَلٍ

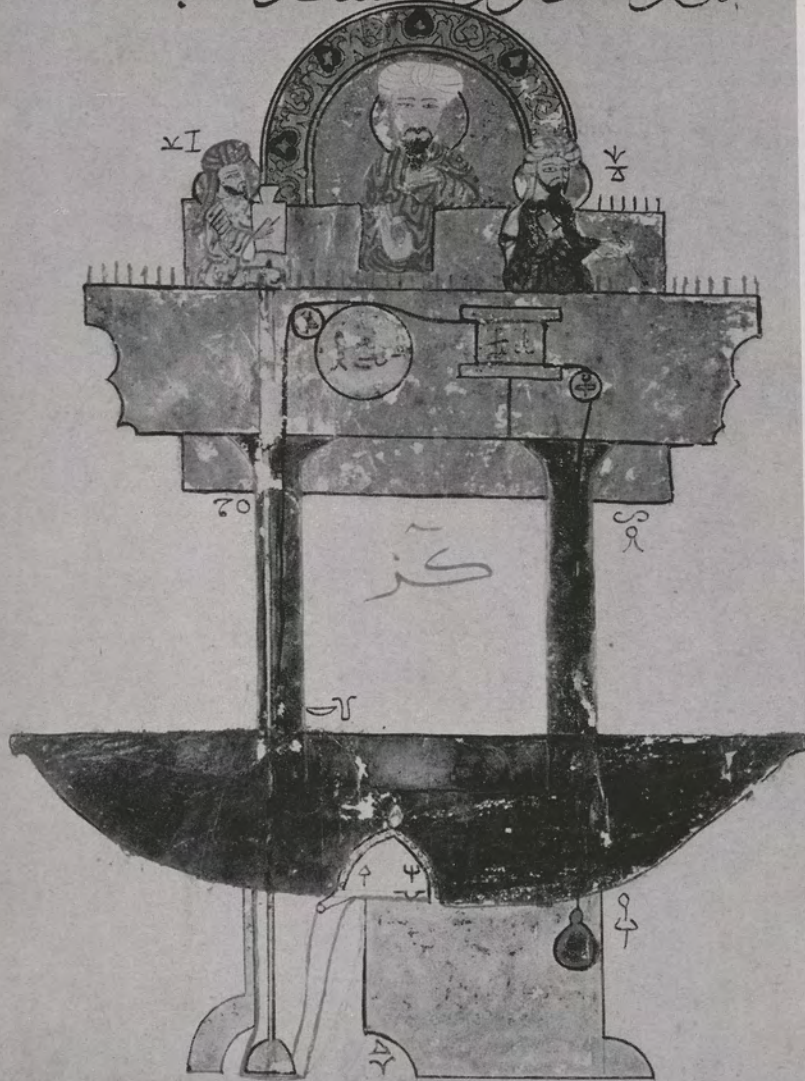
الاساطين

Page from an Automata Ms., a Treatise on Mechanical Devices

Syrian (?), dated A.D. 1315

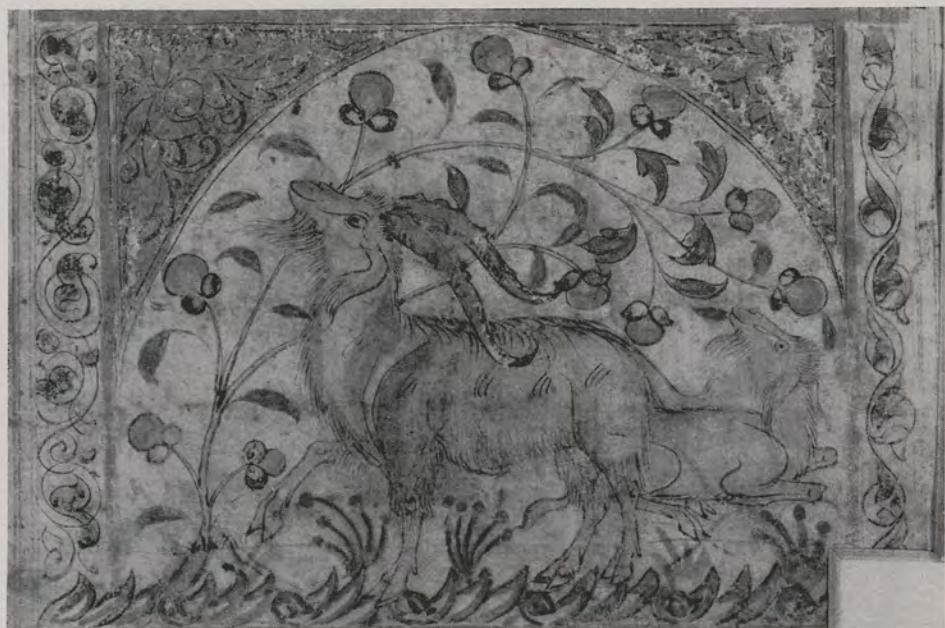
Lent by H. Kevorkian

المَقَرَّةُ وَمَشَاوِرَةُ الطَّيْسِ وَالْكَعْبُ وَالْأَسَا طَيْرٌ



Page from an Automata Ms., a Treatise on Mechanical Devices

Egyptian, Cairo, dated 1354
Lent by Mrs. Kirkor Minassian



Goats; from a Ms. of the *Manafi' al-Hayavan*, or *Bestiary*, by Ibn Bakhtishu'

Persian, early XIV century

Lent by The Art Institute of Chicago



Sikandar Slays the Unicorn; from a *Shah-Nama*, or *Book of Kings*

Persian, first half of XIV century

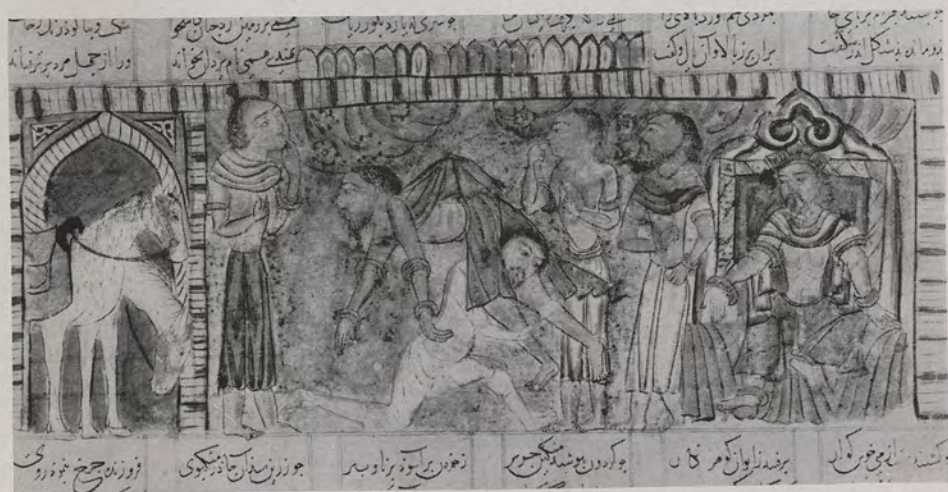
Lent by George Hewitt Myers



Camel Attacked; from the *Kalila wa-Dimna*, or *Fables*, of Bidpai

Persian, dated 1333

Lent by Worcester Art Museum



Bahrām Wrestling before Shāngīl; from a *Shah-Nama*, or *Book of Kings*

Persian, dated 1341

Lent by the Persian Antique Gallery

چه نظر او بر تزیین مذهب و ترجیح ملت نیست و او را حکایت طایفه بحسب روایت ایشان نقل باید کرد نه بوفق معتقد خود
 لاجرم از طعن طاعن و وقیعت معترض این باشد و حوالت مطاعی این طایفه و راوی روایت حکایت کافرشود و باری تعالی
 حکایات نمرود و فرعون و دیگر کفار در قرآن مجید بر سبیل اخبار و قصص فرموده است

در بیان جنود و لایه ارض از میدان و ضیاع



Page from a Ms. of the *Ĵami at-Tawarikh*, or *Universal History*,
 by Rashid ad-Din

Persian, second half of XIV century

Lent by H. Kevorkian



Garden Fête of a Prince
Persian, late XIV century
Lent by Mrs. Kirkor Minassian



Rustam Rescues Bizhan; from a *Shah-Nama*

Persian, XIV-XV centuries

Lent by H. Kevorkian



Hunting Scene; from a Ms. of the *Zafar-Nama*, or *History of Timur*

Persian, dated 1435

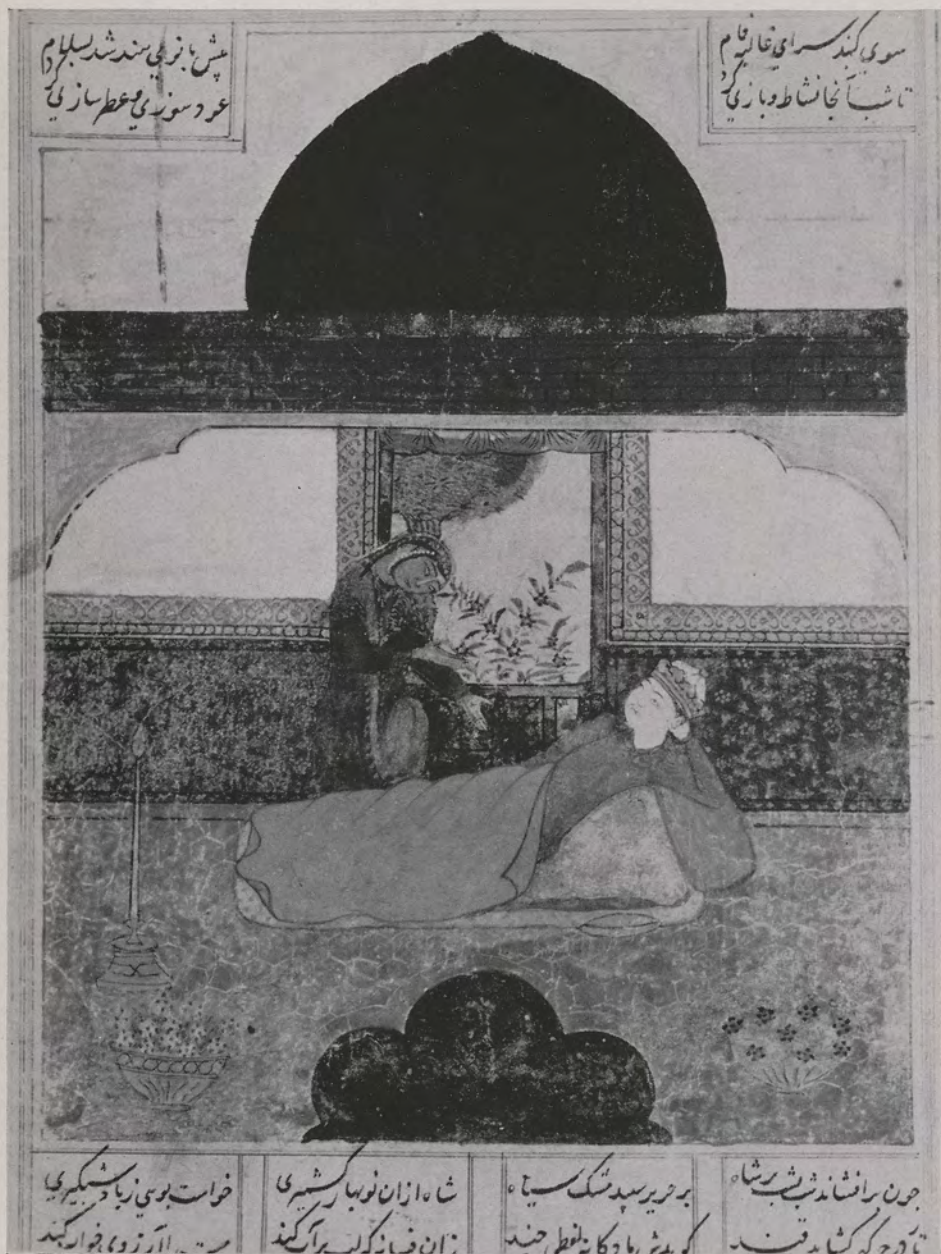
Lent by H. Kevorkian



Persian, XV century

Rustam Slays the Dragon; from a *Shah-Nama*

Lent by Paul J. Sachs



Bahram Gur Visits the Princess of India; from the *Haft Paikar*, or
Seven Effigies, by Nizami

Persian, XV century

Lent by H. Kevorkian

Purchased by the Museum. The J. H. Wade Fund



Persian, XIV century

Dragon and Phoenix
Purchased by the Museum. The J. H. Wade Fund

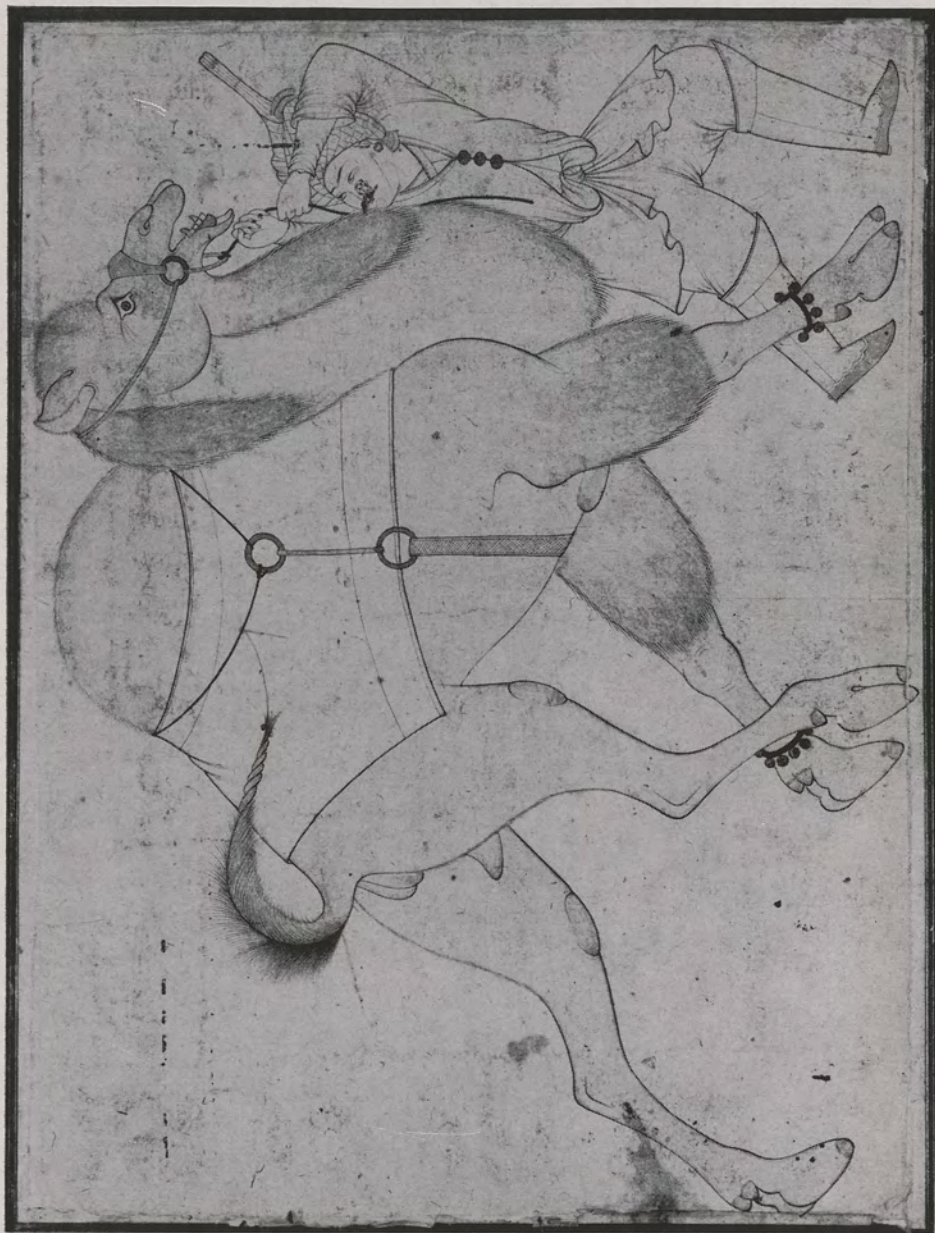
Lent by Philip Hofer



Lent by the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston

Muhammad in a Mosque

Turkish, XVI century



Persian, mid-XVI century

Camel and Attendant

Purchased by the Museum. The J. H. Wade Fund

Lent by Philip Hofer

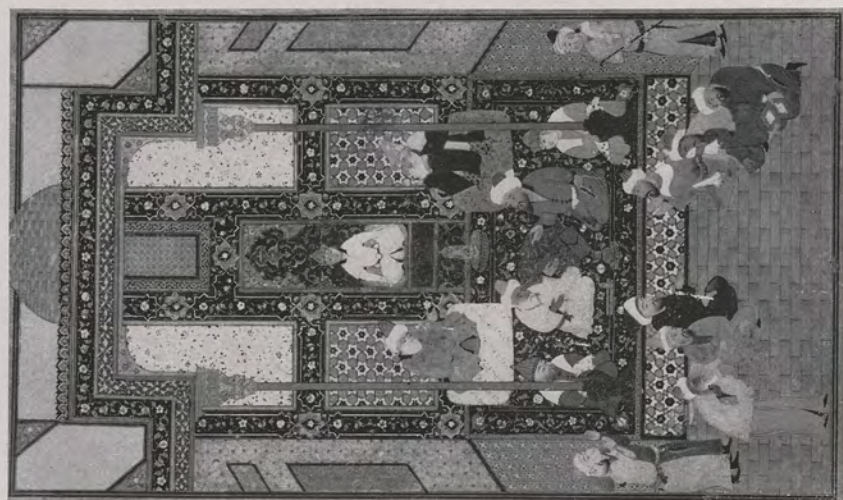


Picnic in the Mountains; Style of Muhammadi

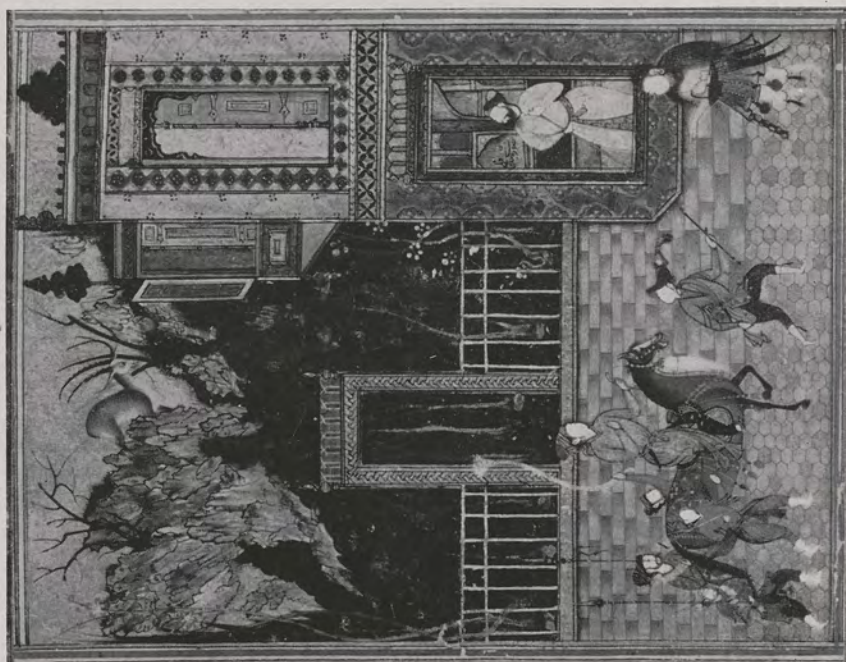
Persian, second half of XVI century

Lent by Philip Hofer

Purchased by the Museum. The J. H. Wade Fund



Young Prince Zal; from a *Shah-Nama*
Persian, Bukhara, mid-XVI century
Lent by The Brooklyn Museum



Mounted Prince Meeting Dervish, by Quli Jan
Persian, second half of XVI century
Lent by H. Kevorkian



Cupbearer

Persian, first half of XVII century
Lent by The City Art Museum of St. Louis

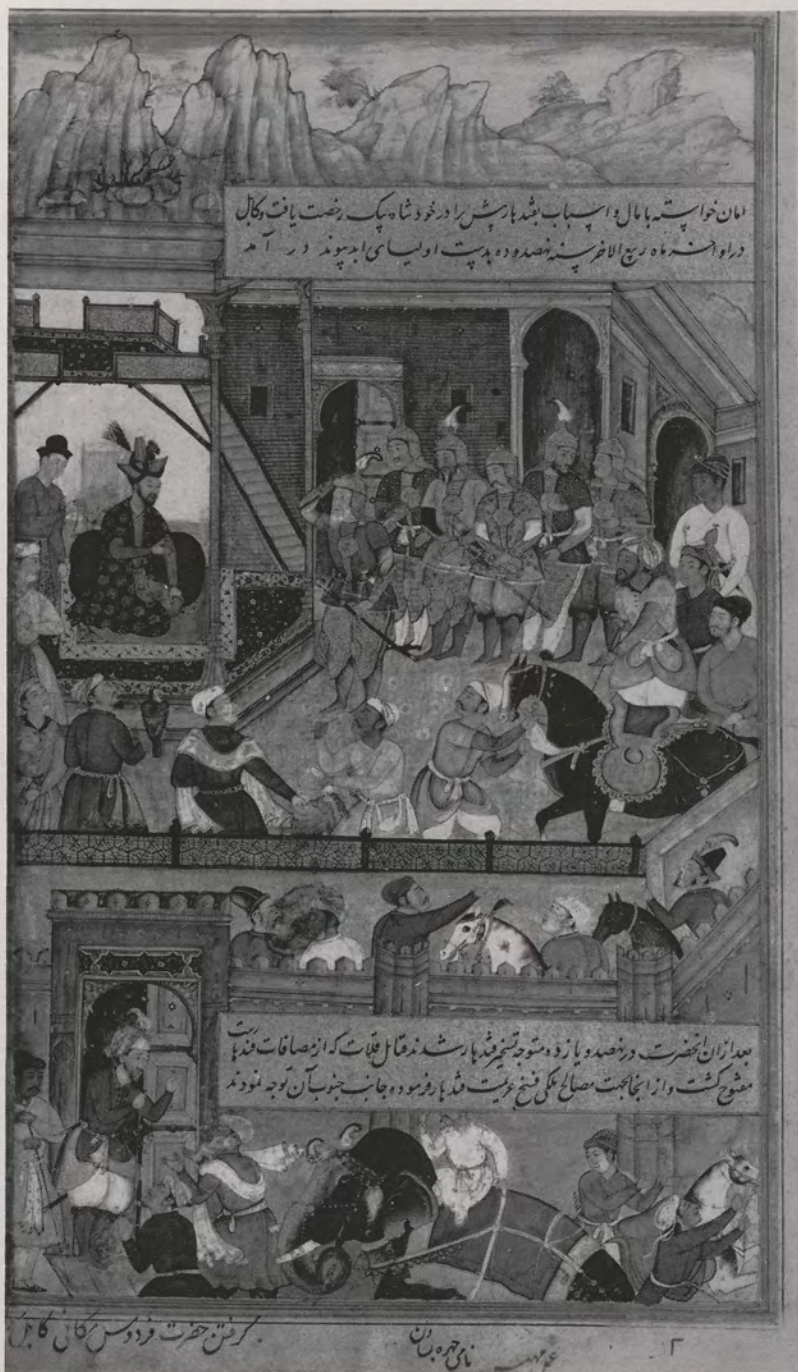


Lady Daydreaming, by Riza-i-Abbasi

Persian, first half of XVII century
Lent by Mrs. Edsel B. Ford



Noah's Ark
Indian, Mughal, late XVI century
Lent by Mrs. Kirkor Minassian



Surrender of the Commandant of Kandahar, by Mahesh and Basawan
 Indian, Mughal, late XVI century
 Lent by Heeramanek Galleries



Imperial Rooster, Signed by Dilaram Padarat Kashmiri

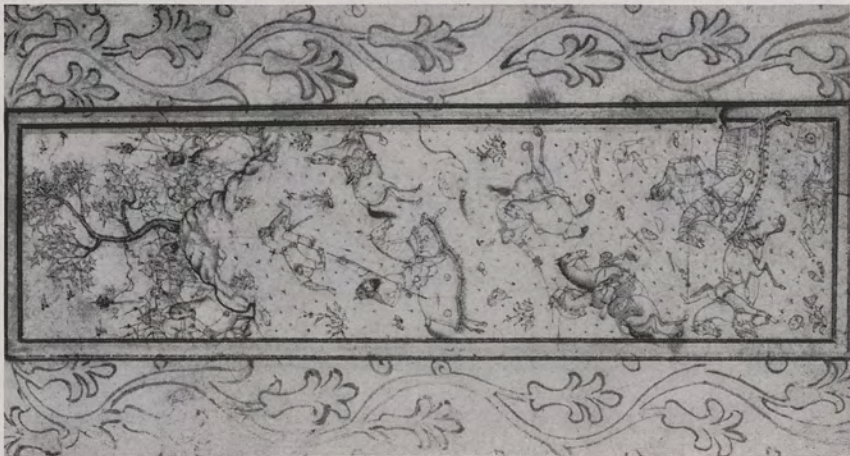
Indian, Mughal, early XVII century

Lent by H. Kevorkian

Gift to the Museum from Herbert F. Leisy



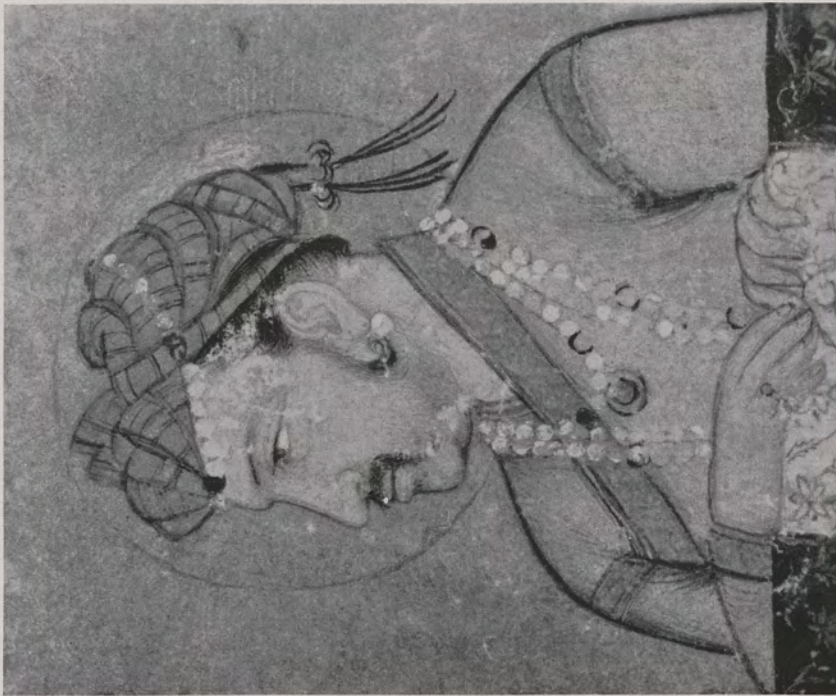
Portrait of Akbar the Great
 Indian, Mughal, first half of XVII century
 Lent by Heeramanek Galleries



Battle Scene

Persian, second half of XVI century

Lent by Dr. Jacob Hirsch



Head of the Emperor Jahangir (Enlarged three times)

Indian, Mughal, first quarter of XVII century

Lent by Dr. Ananda K. Coomaraswamy



Turquoise Bowl with Black Heron, 14" dia.
Mesopotamian, Rakka, XII century
Lent by Dikran G. Kelekian, Inc.



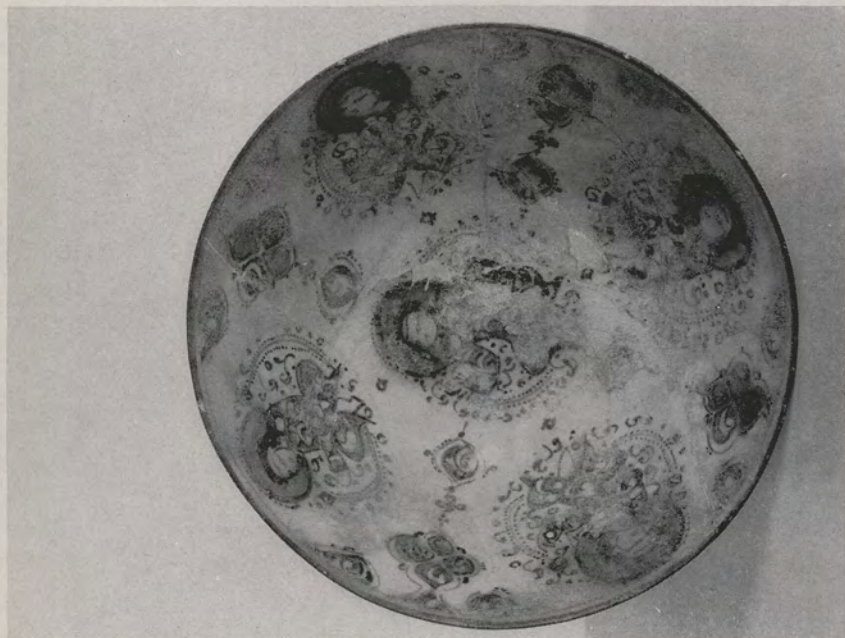
Bowl with Luster Camel, 11" dia.
Iraqian or Persian, X century
Lent by The Detroit Institute of Arts



White Bowl with Black Inscription, $9\frac{3}{4}$ " dia.
 Persian, Nishapur, IX-X centuries
 Lent by The Metropolitan Museum of Art



Green Bowl with Sgraffito Decoration, $7\frac{7}{8}$ " dia.
 Persian, Garrus, XI century
 Lent by Dikran G. Kelekian, Inc.



White Bowl with Blue Figures, 8" dia.

Persian, Kashan, mid-XIII century

Lent by Heermanek Galleries

Purchased by the Museum. The J. H. Wade Fund



White Bowl with Polychrome Figures, 7 7/8" dia.

Persian, Ray, early XIII century

Lent by The Minneapolis Institute of Arts



Dish with Luster Antelope, 10" dia.

Egyptian, Fustat, XI century

Lent by Dikran G. Kelekian, Inc.

Purchased by the Museum. The J. H. Wade Fund



Bowl with Luster Spread-eagle, 10" dia.

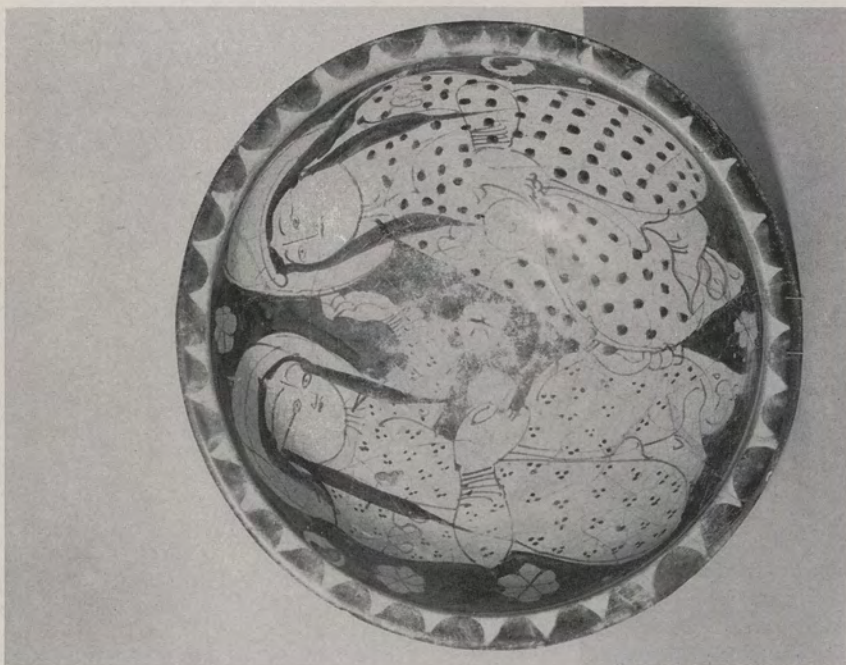
Signed by Muslim

Egyptian, Fustat, X-XI centuries

Lent by Walter Hauser



Luster Bowl with Falcon and Goose, $7\frac{3}{4}$ " dia.
 Persian, Rayy, XII century
 Lent by Walter Hauser



Luster Bowl with Two Figures, $8\frac{3}{4}$ " dia.
 Persian, Rayy, XII century
 Lent by Dikran G. Kelekian, Inc.



Black and White Bowl with Blue Figures, 12 $\frac{1}{4}$ " dia.

Persian, Sultanabad region, XIII century

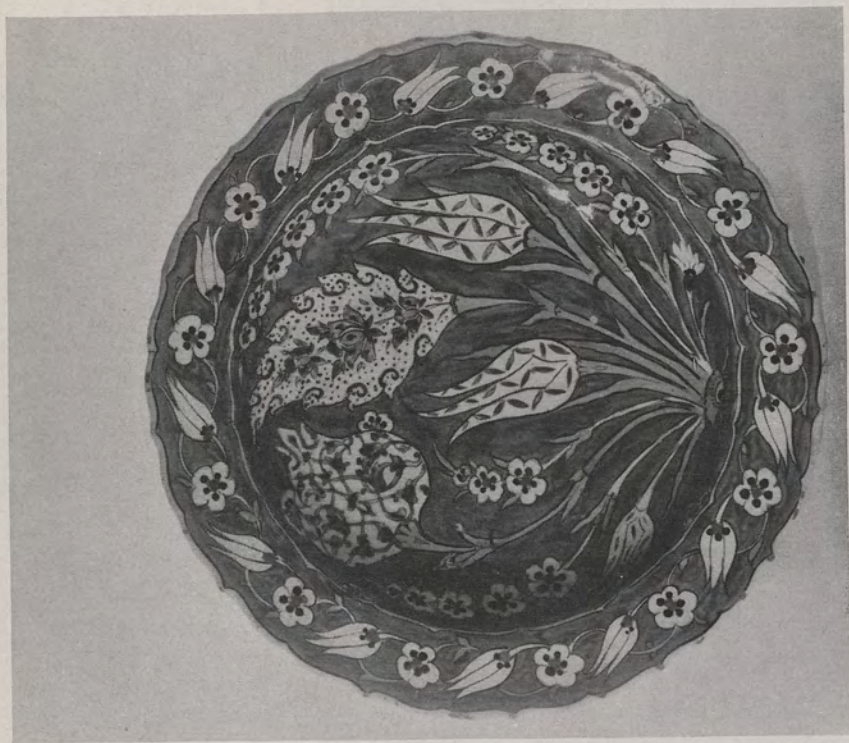
Lent by Alfred F. Pillsbury



Gray Bowl with White Stag, 10 $\frac{5}{8}$ " dia.

Persian, Sultanabad region, early XIV century

Lent by Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection



Blue Dish with Flowers, 12 $\frac{3}{4}$ " dia.
Turkish, XVI century
Lent by The Metropolitan Museum of Art

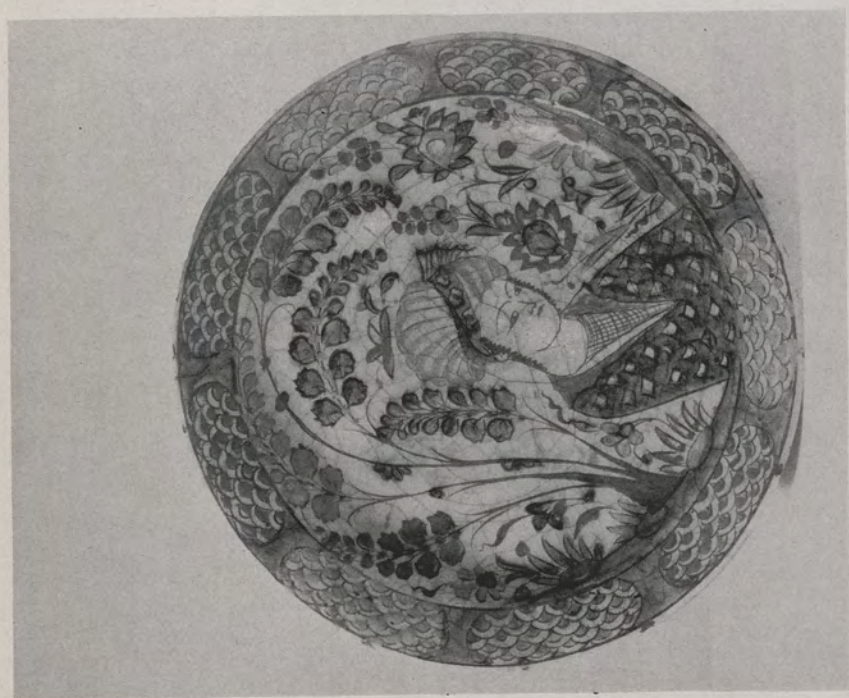


Plate with Youth, 13 $\frac{1}{8}$ " dia.
Persian, Kubachi, first half of XVII century
Lent by Dikran G. Kelekian, Inc.



Bronze Ewer, 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ " high
Persian, VIII-IX centuries
Lent by Brummer Gallery, Inc.



Cream-yellow Bowl with Brown Bird, 9 $\frac{1}{8}$ " dia.
Persian, Amul, X-XI centuries
Lent by Heerameck Galleries



Brass Incense Burner with Silver Inlay, 7½" high
 Persian or Mesopotamian, XIII century
 Lent by Walters Art Gallery, Baltimore



Bronze Box with Gold and Silver Inlay, 3⅞" high
 Syrian, XIII century
 Lent by Heerameck Galleries
 Purchased by the Museum. The J. H. Wade Fund



Enameled Glass Bottle made for Sultan Malik an-Nasir Muhammad

Egyptian, XIV century

Lent by H. Kevorkian

Purchased by the Museum. The J. H. Wade Fund



Stone Relief: possibly a Hitching-post
Persian, Hamadan (?), XII-XIII centuries
Lent by R. Stora and Company
Purchased by the Museum. The J. H. Wade Fund



Persian, early XV century

Bookbinding of Reddish-brown Leather, Blue, and Gold

Lent by Mrs. Kirkor Minassian

Purchased by the Museum. The J. H. Wade Fund

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART
3 0591 00

CMA REF
N6260
'C58
1944
C.2

6 229 CW
BR 4064
07/08 00-030-00 Ohio
H&H Group

CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART



3 3032 00587 9782

CMA REF

N6266

.C58

1944

C.2

